

Ouabache State Park

Interpretive Services
4930 East State Road 201
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone (260) 824-0926
Fax (260) 824-9402
OuabacheInterp@dnr.IN.gov

March 3, 2010

Dear Reenactor,

Spring is right around the corner. That means it is time to begin thinking about the 2010 **Rendezvous on the Ouabache**. The Rendezvous on the Ouabache is a pre-1840's living history weekend aimed at educating the public about this important time in history. Over the past few years, we have had an enthusiastic response to this event from the public. This year's event has been scheduled for *Saturday and Sunday, June 19 - 20, 2010*. On Friday, June 18, 2010, we will also be holding a program entitled "A Covered Wagon Conversation." This program is an opportunity for the public to learn about Rendezvous and the time period before the official event kicks off. Please consider joining us for this important living history demonstration.

Enclosed are the participant forms that you will need to complete, should you wish to join us for this year's event. Forms need to be returned to the park office no later than *Friday, May 28 2010* and anyone wishing to participate **MUST** have a current participation form on file with the naturalist. Only a limited number of campsites are available for this event, so if you would like to be considered for one of these sites, please return your forms as soon as possible. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the park office Monday through Friday during normal park business hours.

I would like to extend a warm thank you to all the participants that have made this event such a huge success in the past. Through the dedication of these reenactors, we have been able to educate thousands over the years about this pivotal time in Indiana's and the Nation's history. With your participation, this wonderful tradition at Ouabache State Park will continue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Curless
Seasonal Interpretive Naturalist
Ouabache State Park
OuabacheInterp@dnr.IN.gov

KWC
Enclosure

Rendezvous on the Ouabache

General Information, Rules and Regulations

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- The Rendezvous on the Ouabache will be held at Ouabache State Park on June 19 and 20 from 9 AM on Saturday to 4:00 PM on Sunday.
- Any individual wishing to participate in the Rendezvous as a reenactor must complete the registration process. Participants will be notified by mail that their participation has been confirmed.
- The Rendezvous will take place in the field to the south of the Fire Tower.
- Drinking water and pit toilets are available on site.
- Shopping opportunities are available in Bluffton (Wal-Mart, Scott's Grocery, Lowe's, etc.) Ice is available at Campground Control. Cost is \$1.50 per bag. Park staff will provide firewood.
- There will be a carry-in dinner in the evening on Saturday, June 19 at the encampment. All rendezvous participants are encouraged to attend.
- Rendezvous participants may only wear period appropriate clothing items.
- During the Rendezvous, all modern articles and supplies must be hidden from the general public's view.
- All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Participants should be prepared to answer questions from or give a demonstration to members of the public at any time during Rendezvous hours.
- Participants should be willing to give demonstrations or talks on any period appropriate topic during the Rendezvous, as requested by park patrons or Rendezvous staff. Those that wish to have a talk or demonstration listed on the official Rendezvous schedule should notify the Interpretive Naturalist on their registration packet.
- Camp tomahawk and knife blocks will be supervised by an experienced adult during published in use hours only. Children under 16 must have a parent/guardian present to be able to use the tomahawk and knife blocks.
- Pets are welcome at the Rendezvous. They must be kept on a leash and under control at all times. Owners unable to keep pets under control will be asked to remove the pet from park property.
- Rendezvous on the Ouabache is a family-oriented educational event. All individuals must conduct themselves appropriately during the event.
- All park rules and regulations will be enforced.
- **Any individual choosing not to follow park or Rendezvous rules and regulations will be asked to leave. Staff decisions are final.**
- Ouabache State Park is not responsible for injuries, or lost, stolen or damaged items.

Campers:

- Check-in will begin at 8:00 AM on Friday, June 18 at the Main Gate. All event campers must be checked in by 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 19.
- Set up may take place between 8:00 AM on Friday, June 18 and 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 19.
- Participants are released at 4:00 PM on Sunday, June 20. Tear down may begin at that time. Park staff reserves the right to release Rendezvous activities early.
- All camps must be broken down by 4:00 PM on Monday, June 21.
- All camps must be period appropriate.
- Campsite assignments are on a first-come, first-serve basis within the encampment. Anyone requiring special consideration for campsites should contact the Naturalist at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
- Preservation of the Rendezvous site is vital. A fire pit may be dug. However, the participant is responsible for replacing the plug and watering the area before leaving camp. Trenching is not allowed.
- Showers will be available to campers at the two comfort stations in the Class A (electric) campgrounds after Rendezvous hours on Saturday, June 19.
- Anyone wishing to camp prior to Friday, June 18 must make a reservation in the modern campgrounds unless previous arrangements have been arranged with the park manager. Reservations can be made by calling 1-866-622-6746 or by going to www.campIN.gov. Reservations *cannot* be made by calling the park office or campground control.

- Should a camper have a long drive home, campers may stay in the encampment Sunday night and break camp on Monday morning. Please notify the Naturalist at least 3 days prior to the event if you will be staying Sunday night.

Day Reenactors:

- Day reenactors must check-in at the Main Gate no later than 9:00 AM on the day they are scheduled.
- Saturday's day reenactors are released at 8:00 PM. Sunday's reenactors are released at 4:00 PM.
- Ouabache State Park will not provide day reenactors with facilities to store items on site during the Rendezvous.
- Day reenactors should have no expectation of having a place to set up a tent or blanket, due to the limited size of the encampment. Day reenactors may make arrangements with campers to set up a blanket in the camper's area. It is the responsibility of the day reenactor to make these arrangements.

Vendors:

- Traders and artisans wishing to sell items during the Rendezvous must hold a DNR Commercial Vendors License.
- Rendezvous vendors/traders may only sell period appropriate items.
- All items for sale should reflect the Midwest region during the time period. No southwestern themed items may be sold.
- All final assembly on trade goods must be done in the U.S.A. No imported, foreign-made, or foreign-assembled products may be sold.
- Sale of Baja's, plastic items, whips and PVC barreled popguns is prohibited.
- Rendezvous staff reserves the right to reject inappropriate sale items.

Participant Biography

This form is filed in the Interpretive Naturalist Office as a confidential document for Ouabache State Park use only. It is used in determining who will be accepted into Ouabache's Rendezvous. Please fill the form out as completely as possible. Thank you

for your interest in educating the public of this important period in the history and expansion of the United States of America.
Please print. Use additional sheets if needed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Email: _____

Names of additional members in your party: _____

In case of an emergency, please list at least one emergency contact (name and phone number): _____

How many Rendezvous have you (and members of your party) participated in approximately: _____

Please name some locations where you have been a participant: _____

Who do you and the members of your party portray: _____

Please give a little information about the person you portray (portrayal's history - what makes them unique): _____

Please any skills or demonstrations you will be performing as a part of your reenactment: _____

Level of Participation desired:

Event Site Camper: _____

Day Reenactor (specify day): _____

Please list the type and approximate size of the tent or wagon you would be bringing, should you be selected as a camper:

If you are not selected as a camper, are you willing to be a day reenactor? Yes (specify day) _____ No _____

Will you be selling any items during the Rendezvous? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list what you will be selling: _____

Please list any suggested programs or events that you think should be held during the Rendezvous. These suggestions will help the Naturalist set a schedule of events for members of the public. _____

I have read and understood the Rendezvous on the Ouabache General Information, Rules and Regulations form attached to this biography. I agree to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in in the General Information, Rules and Regulations form.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

The public wants to hear from you!

As a reenactor, you have a unique story to tell, which allows the public to better understand the time period you are representing. **If you would like to give a short talk or demonstration that is published on the official Rendezvous Schedule of Events, please fill out the form below.** This form will be filed with your Participant Biography and will be used to write a schedule of events for the Rendezvous. This schedule will be published in the local paper and on the Interpretive Services website, as well as be made available at various locations within the park. The schedule will help interested members of the public know what is going on at the Rendezvous on the Ouabache. Additionally, it will help the Naturalist better promote the Rendezvous in the park leading up to the event.

Do you already have a short talk or demonstration that you give at other reenactments?

Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please describe the talk or demonstration that you give (please specify if the talk or demonstration is given as participants walk-up or if it is a formal talk that can be published on the official schedule).: _____

About how long is your talk or demonstration? _____

If no, what type of program or demonstration would you like to give or participate in? _____

When would be the best time for you to give a talk or demonstration?

Saturday Morning (9 AM - Noon) _____

Sunday Morning (9 AM - Noon) _____

Saturday Afternoon (1 PM - 4 PM) _____

Sunday Afternoon (1 PM - 4 PM) _____

Saturday Evening (6 PM - 8 PM) _____

IF you will be giving demonstrations all day (on a walk up basis), what will you be demonstrating? _____

Are you willing to Rove with the Naturalist through the campgrounds on Friday, June 11, 2010 from 7:30 PM - 8:30

PM (approximate times) in period clothing to promote the event? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to participate in the Covered Wagon Conversation on Friday night? Yes _____ No _____